Claim Amendments:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Currently amended): A controlled-release pharmaceutical composition with gastric residence comprising two or three layers and ~~further comprising~~ consisting essentially of:
(a) an active principle combined with an excipient which modifies its release,
(b) a carbon dioxide-generating system in a swelling hydrophilic polymer matrix consisting of a hydrophilic polymer chosen from the following families of hydrophilic polymers:
- natural polysaccharides,
- cellulose derivatives,
- polyvinylpyrrolidones,
- polymers derived from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid and salts thereof, or
- aminoacid polymers,
or a mixture of 2 or 3 hydrophilic polymers chosen from the same family
wherein (a) and (b) are included in the same layer [(a)+(b)] or in separate layers [(a)] and [(b)] and wherein multiple layers containing (a), (b) or (a) and (b) in the same tablet have the same or different compositions and dimensions.

Claim 3. (Previously amended): A composition according to Claim 2, wherein the hydrophilic polymer is chosen from:
- alginates, xanthan gum, guar gum, gum arabic or carob gum,
- methylhydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose ~~or~~, calcium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose,
- polyacrylates, or
- polylysines.

Claim 4. (Currently amended): A controlled-release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to Claim 2 further comprising~~ with gastric residence comprising two or three layers and consisting essentially of:
(a) an active principle combined with an excipient which modifies its release,

(b) a carbon dioxide-generating system in a swelling hydrophilic polymer matrix consisting of a hydrophilic polymer chosen from the following families of hydrophilic polymers:
- natural polysaccharides,
- cellulose derivatives,
- polyvinylpyrrolidones,
- polymers derived from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid and salts thereof, or
- aminoacid polymers,
or a mixture of 2 or 3 hyrdophilic polymers chosen from the same family wherein (a) and (b) are included in the same layer [(a) + (b)] or in separate layers [(a)] and [(b)] and wherein multiple layers containing (a), (b) or (a) and (b) in the same tablet have the same or different compositions and dimensions, and
(c) a hydrophilic excipient capable of promoting the hydration of swelling polymer matrices, chosen from lactose, mannitol, sorbitol, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium ricinoleate, sodium tetradecyl sulfate, sodium dioctyl sulfosulfonate, ketomagrocol, poloxamer and polysorbates.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Previously amended): A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent chosen from an alkali metal carbonate, an alkaline-earth metal carbonate and an alkali metal bicarbonate.

Claim 7. (Previously amended): A composition according to Claim 6 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent and at least one acidic compound chosen from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids and partial salts of polycarboxylic acids.

Claim 8. (Previously amended): A composition according to 7 wherein the acidic compound is tartaric acid, succinic acid, citric acid or a partial salt thereof.

Claim 9. (Previously amended): A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the active

principle is a benzamide.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Previously amended): A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the active principle is an α_1-antagonist.

Claim 12. (Previously amended): A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the active principle is captopril, furosemide, ursodeoxycholic acid, amoxicillin, (+)-α-aminomethyl-2-methoxy-5-sulfonamidobenzenemethanol or 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide, or a salt thereof.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Currently amended): A composition according to ~~Claim 3 further comprising a hydrophilic excipient capable of promoting the hydration of swelling polymer matrices,~~ Claim 4 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is chosen from ~~lactose, mannitol, sorbitol, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium ricinoleate, sodium tetradecyl sulfate, sodium dioctyl sulfosulfonate, ketomagrocol, poloxamer and polysorbates~~

- alginates, xantham gum, guar gum, gum arabic or carob gum,
- methylhydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, calcium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose,
- polyacrylates, or

polylysines.

Claim 15. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the excipient which modifies the release of the active principle is a hydrophilic polymer chosen from the following families of hydrophilic polymers:

- natural polysaccharides,
- cellulose derivatives,
- polyvinylpyrrolidones,

- polymers derived from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid and salts thereof, or
- aminoacid polymers,
or a mixture of 2 or 3 hydrophilic polymers chosen from the same family,
or, when (a) and (b) are in separate layers, said excipient may further be a lipid substance chosen from hydrogenated castor oil, beeswax, carnauba wax, glyceryl trimyristate, glyceryl trilaurate, glyceryl tristearate, cetyl palmitate and glyceryl behenate, or a combination of a hydrophilic polymer and a lipid substance.

Claim 16. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 4 wherein the excipient which modifies the release of the active principle is a hydrophilic polymer chosen from the following families of hydrophilic polymers:
- natural polysaccharides,
- cellulose derivatives,
- polyvinylpyrrolidones,
- polymers derived from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid and salts thereof, or
- aminoacid polymers,
or a mixture of 2 or 3 hydrophilic polymers chosen from the same family,
or, when (a) and (b) are in separate layers, said excipient may further be a lipid substance chosen from hydrogenated castor oil, beeswax, carnauba wax, glyceryl trimyristate, glyceryl trilaurate, glyceryl tristearate, cetyl palmitate and glyceryl behenate, or a combination of a hydrophilic polymer and a lipid substance.

Claim 17. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 14 wherein the excipient which modifies the release of the active principle is a hydrophilic polymer chosen from the following families of hydrophilic polymers:
- natural polysaccharides,
- cellulose derivatives,
- polyvinylpyrrolidones,
- polymers derived from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid and salts thereof, or
- aminoacid polymers,
or a mixture of 2 or 3 hydrophilic polymers chosen from the same family,

or, when (a) and (b) are in separate layers, said excipient may further be a lipid substance chosen from hydrogenated castor oil, beeswax, carnauba wax, glyceryl trimyristate, glyceryl trilaurate, glyceryl tristearate, cetyl palmitate and glyceryl behenate, or a combination of a hydrophilic polymer and a lipid substance.

Claim 18. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 15 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent chosen from an alkali metal carbonate or alkaline-earth metal carbonate and an alkali metal bicarbonate.

Claim 19. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 16 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent which may be chosen from an alkali metal carbonate or alkaline-earth metal carbonate and an alkali metal bicarbonate.

Claim 20. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 17 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent chosen from an alkali metal carbonate or alkaline-earth metal carbonate and an alkali metal bicarbonate.

Claim 21. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 18 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent and at least one acidic compound chosen from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids and partial salts of polycarboxylic acids.

Claim 22. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 19 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent and at least one acidic compound chosen from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids and partial salts of polycarboxylic acids.

Claim 23. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 20 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent and at least one acidic compound chosen from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic

acids and partial salts of polycarboxylic acids.

Claim 24. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 21 wherein the acidic compound is tartaric acid, succinic acid, citric acid or a partial salt thereof.

Claim 25. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 22 wherein the acidic compound is tartaric acid, succinic acid, citric acid or a partial salt thereof.

Claim 26. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 23 wherein the acidic compound is tartaric acid, succinic acid, citric acid or a partial salt thereof.

Claim 27. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the active principle is selected from the group consisting of amisulpride (D)-tartrate, (S)-(-)-amisulpride, (S)-(-)-amisulpride (D)-tartrate, tiapride hydrochloride, alfuzosine hydrochloride and 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide hydrochloride.

Clam 28. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the active principle is a benzamide.

Claim 29. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the active principle is an α_1-antagonist.

Claim 30. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the active principle is captopril, furosemide, ursodeoxycholic acid, amoxicillin, (+)-α-aminomethyl-2-methoxy-5-sulfonamidobenzenemethanol or 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide, or a salt thereof.

Claim 31. (New) A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the active principle is selected from the group consisting of amisulpride (D)-tartrate, (S)-(-)-amisulpride, (S)-(-)-amisulpride (D)-tartrate, tiapride hydrochloride, alfuzosine hydrochloride and 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide hydrochloride.

Claim 32. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 24 wherein the active principle is a benzamide.

Claim 33. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 24 wherein the active principle is an α_1-antagonist.

Claim 34. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 24 wherein the active principle is captopril, furosemide, ursodeoxycholic acid, amoxicillin, (+)-α-aminomethyl-2-methoxy-5-sulfonamidobenzenemethanol or 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide, or a salt thereof.

Claim 35. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 24 wherein the active principle is selected from the group consisting of amisulpride (D)-tartrate, (S)-(-)-amisulpride, (S)-(-)-amisulpride (D)-tartrate, tiapride hydrochloride, alfuzosine hydrochloride and 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide hydrochloride.

Claim 36. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 25 wherein the active principle is a benzamide.

Claim 37. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 25 wherein the active principle is an α_1-antagonist.

Claim 38. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 25 wherein the active principle is captopril, furosemide, ursodeoxycholic acid, amoxicillin, (+)-α-aminomethyl-2-methoxy-5-sulfonamidobenzenemethanol or 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide, or a salt thereof.

Claim 39. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 25 wherein the active principle is selected from the group consisting of amisulpride (D)-tartrate, (S)-(-)-amisulpride,

(S)-(-)-amisulpride (D)-tartrate, tiapride hydrochloride, alfuzosine hydrochloride and 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide hydrochloride.

Claim 40. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 26 wherein the active principle is a benzamide.

Claim 41. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 26 wherein the active principle is an α_1-antagonist.

Claim 42. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 26 wherein the active principle is captopril, furosemide, ursodeoxycholic acid, amoxicillin, (+)-α-aminomethyl-2-methoxy-5-sulfonamidobenzenemethanol or 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide, or a salt thereof.

Claim 43. (Previously added): A composition according to Claim 26 wherein the active principle is selected from the group consisting of amisulpride (D)-tartrate, (S)-(-)-amisulpride, (S)-(-)-amisulpride (D)-tartrate, tiapride hydrochloride, alfuzosine hydrochloride and 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide hydrochloride.